

Stirling Child Protection Committee Newsletter

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Contact Details

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items or stories to Anne
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Davie Flynn
Stirling Area Commander
Central Scotland Police

I am writing the introduction to this edition of the newsletter as Stirling Area Commander for Central Scotland Police. I chair the Stirling Community Safety Partnership and we recently absorbed responsibility to lead on the "Care and Protection" Platform for Action after the Children and Young Persons Partnership's work was re-allocated. Together with the Child Protection Committee, a high level of responsibility rests on us all to ensure we are doing the best we can for the children of Stirling.

Child Protection, and now the concept of Public Protection Units, has been at the forefront of investigation and protection strategies for some time. We were the first police force in Scotland to work with partner agencies to jointly investigate child protection allegations when in 1999 the Family Unit was formed.

Since then we have taken every opportunity to develop our processes to protect children and young people in our Communities taking cognisance of lessons learned from the HMle inspections across Scotland.

In April of this year the Public Protection Unit was established. This has brought together Child Protection, Domestic Abuse, Historic Abuse, Youth Strategy and Offender Management Units to provide a coordinated and robust structure to supporting victims and addressing the offending behaviour of perpetrators. (More details on Page 11)

As you have read in previous newsletters we are now collectively looking towards co location with partners to further enhance our processes, which is certainly the next logical stage in the protection of our communities

It has been acknowledged that there are real links with Child Protection and Domestic Abuse and having identified there was limited work being done with perpetrators who wished to address their offending behaviour; I have been working with partners to develop a non-court mandated perpetrators programme in Forth Valley. We are linking with the Criminal Justice Authority and Scottish Government to address this offending behaviour to make real changes to the 'home' lives of our children. We will keep you updated with progress in this regard.

I continue to encourage my staff to consider the 'hidden harm' aspect of substance abuse in families in order that early and speedy interventions can be made when concerns are highlighted. We have to learn the lessons from cases such as Caleb Ness and Baby Peter.

In the Summer Of 2008, we carried out Operation Pincer to address the real and tangible risks associated with computer crime affecting children within what should be the safety of their own homes. We have continued to build on this operation with a program of enforcement and education within Schools. (more information on Child Internet Safety on Page 6)

Stirling is a thriving community with real opportunities for our children, it is certainly my philosophy that it is only by working together that we can protect these children and ensure they are supported to achieve their full potential and become valuable and contributing members of our communities.

Inter-Agency Child Protection Training

What do you do, when you want everybody to come to your training – and then almost everybody does? Well, you put on lots and lots of training sessions to make sure as many people as possible can attend.

Level II – Foundation Training is one of those courses. It is aimed at people who have direct or indirect contact with children, such as teachers, social workers, community police officers, GPs, leisure staff, community wardens, criminal justice services, addiction services (and many others) and provides a thorough grounding in child protection issues.

During the 2-day course, some of your perceptions about roles and responsibilities may be challenged. You will also have an opportunity to explore the dilemmas of information sharing and look at the risks in risk assessment. If that is not enough to make you fill in an application form, how about the opportunity to spend time with professionals from other agencies in small and large group discussions and finding out how they ensure that children are kept safe?

To find out more about this and other courses, go to:

<http://www.stirling.gov.uk/interagencycptraininginfo.pdf>

Some comments: “Very, good, informative course, made quite enjoyable even though topic isn’t.”

“It has made me look at situations more in-depth rather than just going along with the way things look from the outside”

“It has raised my awareness of the key part I may play in initialising the action for protection of a child”

Stirling Council Child Protection Committee
Stirling Community Safety Partnership

Child Protection

It's Everyone's Responsibility



Everyone wants the Stirling area to be a place where all children and young people are safe, enjoy good health, and have access to a wide range of positive experiences and opportunities to achieve their potential. The safety of our children is everyone's responsibility. Unfortunately not all children are cared for or protected.

If you have concerns about a child, you should:

- A** listen to what is being said
- B** observe what is happening
- C** write down what you see and hear

Then seek advice and support from:
During the day

Social Work **01786 471177**
Police **01786 456000**
Health **Contact your GP**
Children's Panel **01786 476400**

Out of hours (after 5pm and at weekends)

Social Work **01786 470500**
Police **01786 456000**



DELIVERING QUALITY SERVICES
0845 277 7000 stirling.gov.uk



Stirling Childrens Panel

Currently the appointed membership stands at 44, with 27 ladies and 17 gentlemen. This is the highest membership we've had in Stirling. We also have 14 new members currently 'in training' and although it would be rare for all these trainees to reach full appointment, our ongoing membership looks very healthy.

Historically there has always been a gender imbalance favouring the ladies, normally on a ratio of around 2:1, although in recent years this seems to be diminishing.

Two very notable recent retireals have been that of Gill McBride and Elaine Hay who left with a combined service of 37 years. (The hearing system was 38 this year!) Gill was the current Stirling Chair of 5 years when she retired after 15 years of service. Elaine retired after 22 years, including the 7 years as Chair prior to Gill.

Apart from their duties as Chair, Gill and Elaine represented Stirling Panel with various agencies and committees and were an integral part of our training team. Their vast experience and knowledge of the hearing system is a terrific loss to Stirling.

Elaine has just been awarded an M.B.E. for services to children and young people.

Colin Hunter
Stirling Children's Panel

Forth Valley Childrens Panel Membership at July 2009

<i>Panel Area</i>	<i>Members</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Trainees (09)</i>
Stirling	44	17	27	14
Falkirk	72	29	43	11
Clackmannan	43	18	25	11
<i>Totals</i>	<i>159</i>	<i>64</i>	<i>95</i>	<i>36</i>



L to R - David Forsyth, Chair CPAC, Gill McBride, Elaine Hay MBE and Provost Fergus Wood.



ECPAT UK Campaign to Stop Trafficking of Children

ECPAT UK has launched a three-year campaign to stop the trafficking of children and young people by raising awareness of the issue and empowering people to make a difference.

Research to uncover the extent to which Britons are aware of the issue of child trafficking found that over a third of the public are completely unaware of the extent of trafficking in the UK. The findings, collated from 1255 respondents, suggest that a large proportion of the UK population believe that child trafficking does not happen in their local area. One in 10 Britons do not believe it is happening in this country and a frightening 34% believe that child victims of trafficking end up in foreign countries, not in Great Britain.

Christine Beddoe, Director of ECPAT UK said, “Child trafficking is not easy to spot and not easy to talk about. The fact that the majority of all global trafficking is for sexual exploitation has created a taboo. If we are all aware, then we can all help stop children falling through the cracks in society. We can make a real difference and prevent child trafficking.”

A global report launched in Bangkok on 13th August compiles up-to-date information about the trafficking of children and young people for sexual exploitation, a crime which occurs all over in the world.

The campaign to stop the trafficking of children requires the skills and knowledge of many groups of people.

ECPAT UK has been campaigning against the sexual exploitation of children for over 15 years and has been responsible for ground breaking research and a number of successful campaigns to bring about new laws and policies to protect children who have been trafficked into the UK.

Christine Beddoe said: “The key to protecting child victims of trafficking is guaranteeing safe accommodation for them. At the end of this three-year campaign, we want safe accommodation, including specialist foster care, to be available for all child victims of trafficking.”

As part of the sixteen Days of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children ECPAT UK will be leading a half day multi-agency seminar here in Stirling on 10th December to share the latest information and research findings about this key child protection issue.

CHILD PROTECTION: NATIONAL NEWS REVIEW OF NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION GUIDANCE – THE ‘1998 REVIEW GROUP’

A national working group set up to review national child protection guidance was opened by Adam Ingram, the Minister for Children & Early Years, on 11 February. The purpose of the group is to produce revised and refreshed child protection guidance to replace *Protecting Children – A Shared Responsibility*, ensuring that it reflects recent policy and practice developments and helps embed best child protection practice into consistent general use. Two sub-groups have also now been set up to drive forward specific strands of the review, with one looking at the sharing of information and assessing risk and need and the other focussing on definitions, procedures and processes. Within the first work strand, Anne Salter, Lead Officer Child Protection, Stirling, and Pat Scroggie, Central Scotland Police, are leading a small working party looking at the links between child protection and domestic abuse.

For more information about any aspect of the Review or to contribute to the work at local or national level, contact Anne Salter.

HMIE-LED JOINT INSPECTIONS

Following the last H.M.I.E. inspection of Stirling in December, 2007/January, 2008, HMIE are now preparing for a further proportionate three year round of inspections, as directed by Adam Ingram, Minister for Children & Early Years. The inspection model has been developed in consultation with stakeholders, including substantial input from Child Protection Committees. The plans for the second cycle are consistent with a longer-term move towards the inspection of wider children’s services with greater emphasis on self-evaluation.

The next inspection in Stirling is scheduled for March, 2010, and a small working party consisting of representation from Stirling Council, Central Scotland Police, Forth Valley N.H.S, s.c.r.a. AND THE Voluntary Sector is meeting to prepare for this.

CHILD INTERNET SAFETY

The recommendations of the Byron Review, published in September 2007 are being taken forward by the UK Council for Child Internet Safety, which includes Scottish Government representation. The Council’s work is being taken forward through four workstreams, which met for the second time in June, covering:

- **industry standards,**
- **public information & awareness,**
- **better education, and**
- **video games.**

As well as taking responsibility for policy development and service improvement in these areas, each group has an overarching responsibility to relay information about each workstream’s progress as part of a wider UK-wide communications campaign. There is a designated champion for vulnerable children on each of the workstreams. Further information on the work of the Council and it’s working groups can be found at www.dcsf.gov.uk/ukccis .

CLASSIFICATION OF VIDEO GAMES

The UK Department of Culture, Media & Sport recently announced proposals for the establishment of a new system for age classifying video games. Under the proposals, the statutory system for classifying games will no longer be operated by the BBFC, Instead, the system will be based on the Pan-European Gaming Industry (PEGI) system but with some additional safeguards included in order to protect UK sensibilities. The system will be overseen by the Video Standards Council (VSC)

The Primary/

The Primary reason for deciding to proceed with the enhanced PEGI system lay in the fact that any solution would have to work in future across geographical boundaries given that many computer games are now being distributed in the online environment. The PEGI system has been developed in such a way as to ensure this type of consistency exists across borders throughout Europe.

JOINT INVESTMENT BY THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT AND ACPOS IN A NEW VULNERABLE PERSONS SYSTEM

The Scottish Government has recently committed up to £1 million to develop a Vulnerable Persons System (VPS), with ACPOS contributing an expected further £500,000. It will be developed by ACPOS with the Scottish Police Services Authority providing technical expertise alongside experienced consultants. It will go live for police forces throughout 2010-11, starting with specialist police officers making use of the information.

This VPS system will eventually allow child protection agencies across Scotland to share information quicker and better ensure safeguards are in place for those at risk. The £1.5 million Vulnerable Persons System (VPS) will help agencies react faster to changes in a child's circumstances in the future to keep them safe from neglect and abuse. The VPS - which will also cover vulnerable adults - will initially allow police forces to share secure, accurate and up-to-date information electronically but will be open to other agencies in due course.

The VPS - designed on the existing ViSOR (Violent and Sex Offender Register) system - will reduce the need for unnecessary paperwork, speed up information sharing and enable police officers attending incidents to assess if anyone involved is listed as being vulnerable, leading to more effective decision making.

From 2011 the VPS will be incorporated into eCare - the Scottish Government's multi-agency, electronic information sharing framework which covers, amongst other aspects, consent, standards, security, procurement, organisational development and technical issues relating to the electronic sharing of personal data. From 2011, the VPS will enable the police and other bodies like social work and health to bring together key information from various agencies' systems.



New Structures in Stirling Council

As some people may already be aware, Stirling Council is currently being restructured.

The Chief Executive along with three Assistant Chief Executives will now lead on the strategic agenda, progressing outcomes through the Single Outcome Agreement.

There will be eleven Heads of Service who will lead on the operational responsibilities for Service areas.

Social Care brings together Children & Families' Social Work, Community Care Services for adults and older people and Criminal Justice Social Work. This brings all social work services under one Head of Service, Bill Eadie. Bill will also be the Chief Social Work Officer for Stirling Council. In addition, Bill is currently chair of Stirling Child Protection Committee.

The changes are being made to improve outcomes for citizens and communities.

The changes that have led to the introduction of Social Care have been driven by a number of factors. These include:

- Review work, which has been ongoing within Community Care.
- Working in partnership with NHS Forth Valley and the Joint Improvement Team.
- To modernise Services.
- To improve outcomes for Service users:-
- The improvement agenda following a number of external inspections
- The realignment of management posts and responsibilities following a review of current arrangements

The key changes are:

- Moving from geographical teams to functional teams and teams based on care groups.
- Developing a full performance and quality assurance framework to support continuous improvement.
- Improving outcomes for service users by
 - ❑ moving to an outcomes based framework for assessment, review and care planning within Community Care.
 - ❑ further development of rehabilitation services and development of a Re-Ablement Service.
 - ❑ strengthening assessment and early intervention activity within services to children and families.
- providing clear information about our Services.
- Greater focus on key service priorities

These changes are already taking place with new teams and arrangements in place by September 09.

The new/

The new team and Service structures will mean that we need to review all of the workloads. This will mean for some people that their key worker will change. Inevitably too there will be changes in how we work with partners and stakeholders. We wish to ensure the existing partnerships are maintained and developed where appropriate and new partnerships formed to ensure improved service delivery and outcomes for children and families.

The new structure within the children and families social work teams are:

Service Managers (Operations) – Sandy Anderson & Leo McGrath
Service Manager (Performance & Quality Assurance) – Mark Smith
Assessment & Early Intervention - Located in Drummond House
Team Leaders – Gordon Main & Sheena Allan
Family Support & Disability – Located in Wallace High School
Team Leader – Margaret Quenby
Looked After Children (over 12) – Located in Stirling High School
Team Leader – Gary Stopford
Looked After Children (under 12) – Located in Drummond House
Team Leader – Roger Ridley
Adoption & Fostering – Located in Drummond House
Team Leader – Chris Brodie

Staff are currently being allocated to teams.

Our Residential Care Team and Emergency Duty Team will remain as they currently are.

For further information on the new arrangements please contact any of the Service Managers.



Sixteen Days of Action to End Violence against Women and Children, November 25th-December 10th, 2009

For the third successive year Stirling Child Protection Committee will again be supporting the campaign Sixteen Days of Action to End Violence against Women and Children in November/December 2009.

A full programme of activities throughout the Stirling council area and supported by key partners including Stirling Council, Central Scotland Police, Forth Valley N.H.S. and the voluntary sector is currently being planned and full details will be included in the next C.P.C. newsletter.

In the meantime, two key dates already confirmed are:

Thursday 3rd. December, 6.00p.m. – a White Ribbon march, led by Central Scotland Police Pipe Band, from Stirling Castle to Stirling Council Viewforth

Thursday 10th December – a half-day multi-agency seminar on Child Trafficking, led by E.C.P.A.T. - End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and the Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes – in the Municipal Chambers, Stirling.

For further information on the above, contact Anne Salter, Lead Officer Child Protection.

Public Protection Unit

The Public Protection Unit is a specialist unit of highly trained detectives and police staff responsible for the management and investigation of crimes involving adult abuse, child abuse, domestic abuse, sex offenders and youth justice.

The unit is headed by a Detective Chief Inspector, supported by two Detective Inspectors and four Detective Sergeants. Staff within the unit is split into two distinct business areas, focussing on the Victims and the Offenders. These two areas are subdivided into the following categories, each having specialist knowledge in their respective areas:

- * Child Abuse Investigation Officers (victim)
- * Historic Abuse Officers (victim)
- * Domestic Abuse Officers (victim)
- * Management of Sex Offenders (offender)
- * Youth Strategy Officer (offender)

The Unit is currently based at Falkirk Police office however it is intended by October 2009 to have the unit re-located to the first floor of the new Larbert Police Office. In addition to this office locations, the Public Protection Unit has two bespoke Victim Care Units, one within Falkirk Police Office and another at Stirling Police Office which are specially designed to afford maximum comfort and a reassuring environment for those victims and witnesses who undergo medical examination. In addition there is a paediatric provision within Stirling Royal Infirmary.

Our specialist officers receive particular training on how to interview children and vulnerable people, balancing the gathering of evidence with a concern for the welfare of the victim during the interview and investigative process. We are trained in assessment of offenders who are living within or are about to be released into our communities. There are specialist courses dedicated to;

domestic abuse and sexual abuse;

- * joint training with partner agencies in child abuse investigations;
- * training in the formal assessment of offenders in conjunction with partners;
- * training on the recovery and presentation of information from computers and other storage devices.

We recognise the importance of equipping our staff with the appropriate skills and we support their ongoing development.

We works in partnership with Scottish Government, Police Forces, local authorities and other partner agencies to support Force and national objectives in relation to youth issues.

The Public Protection Unit works closely with a number of other agencies, such as Local Authorities Social Work Departments, Scottish Children's Reporters Authority, Crown Office and Procurators Fiscal Service, Criminal Justice Authority, Women's Aid, Victim Support, to investigate allegations and support victims across Forth Valley and beyond.

The Unit provides the best possible assistance to victims of crime and supports our officers where appropriate to the circumstances to identify offenders and report them to appropriate authorities.

D.I. Pat Scroggie
Scotland Scotland Central
Police